

HOME HEALTH

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING

SERVICE STANDARD

Definition

Home Health services provide intermittent skilled nursing care under appropriate medical supervision to acutely or chronically ill homebound older adults. Various rehabilitative therapies and home health aides providing personal care services are included.¹

Eligible Population

Home health services are targeted to acutely or chronically-impaired homebound persons, 60 years of age and older, whose current functioning level requires in-home health services without which they would be at risk of institutionalization. Priority shall be given to persons who are in the greatest economic or social need and/or residing in rural or geographically isolated areas, with particular attention provided to low-income minority persons.²

Service Delivery Elements

Service Specific Assessment:

A service specific assessment using the full Uniform Assessment Instrument must be performed on each potential client to determine:

- Whether the person meets the criteria specified in the eligible population;
- What the person's service specific needs are;
- What level of priority for service delivery the person meets
- Federal Poverty should be determined and documented. The Federal Poverty/VDA form may be used
- Any fee for service charge to the client shall be determined by the applicable sliding fee scale

Agencies providing Home Health Services must perform the following components:

- Skilled care provided by or under the supervision of a licensed health professional.
- May include rehabilitative care such as physical, speech/hearing, and occupational therapies.

Administrative Elements

Staff Qualifications:

Staffing and other requirements are established by Area Agency on Aging policy in compliance with state and federal regulations.

Units of Service:

Units of service must be reported in AIM for each client receiving the service. Service units can be reported by client on a daily basis, but not aggregated (summarized) more than beyond one calendar month.

¹ 22 VAC 5-20-80 , Grants To Area Agencies On Aging, Department for the Aging Regulations, Virginia Administrative Code

² 22 VAC 5-20-90 and the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, Section 306(a)(4)(A)(i)

- Hours

Program Reports:

- Aging Monthly Report (AMR) to VDA by the twelfth (12th) of the following month. If the area agency on aging provides this service, this report must be updated and submitted even if no expenditures or units of service occurred.
- AIM client level data transmitted to VDA by the last day of the following month.

Consumer Contributions/Program Income:

There must be a written policy on handling of Client Program Income (CPI) and other gratuities and donations.

- Cost Sharing/Fee for Service: An Area Agency on Aging is permitted to implement cost sharing/fee for service for recipients of this service.³
And/Or
- Voluntary Contributions: Voluntary contributions shall be allowed and may be solicited for this service provided that the method of solicitation is non-coercive.⁴

Quality Assurance

Criminal Background Checks:

VDA strongly recommends that the agency and its contractors protect their vulnerable older clients by conducting criminal background checks for staff providing any service where they go to or into a client's home.

Staff Training:

Determined by licensing or certification requirements.

Supervision/Case Review:

Consultation, supervision, and case review shall be available to all staff providing the service.

Program Evaluation:

The area agency on aging should conduct a regular systematic analysis of the persons served and the impact of the service. Service providers shall be monitored annually.

Client Records:

- The full Uniform Assessment Instrument
- Federal Poverty Documentation and Fee for Service calculation must be part of the client record. Federal Poverty/VDA sliding Fee Scale form may be used.
- Care Plan
- Service Agreement

³ Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, Section 315(a)

⁴ Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, Section 315(b)

- Service Documentation
- Service Reassessment
- Service Termination policy
- Appeal Process
- Consent to Release Information Form